

Tiger's Work Here May Win Premier's Post

Taking Word to Paris U. S. Will Help Put Him in Position to Head Cabinet or Name Tardieu

Poincare's Power Wanes

Prime Minister Must Regain Lost Laurels at January or Quit

By Wilbur Forrest

Special Cable to The Tribune
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PARIS, Dec. 16.—Georges Clemenceau, on his way back to France after his triumphal American tour, may become Premier of France again within a few weeks—or his first lieutenant, Andre Tardieu, former French High Commissioner in the United States, who yesterday led the attack on Premier Poincare in the Chamber of Deputies, may be elevated to that post, which, politically, would mean the same thing. Premier Poincare, as a result of the vote of confidence he received last night, will be afforded a chance to retrieve his unquestionably damaged laurels on January 2. Should he fail then, Clemenceau's succession is almost inevitable.

It is this inner political phase of the struggle that is now raging here which is necessary to any full understanding of the French position in regard to reparations and the proposed American financial intervention in Europe.

Two months, even two weeks, ago, Clemenceau was not seriously figured in the political scheme of things here in France any longer. His reception in the United States, where his enumeration of his conception of America's duties to Europe is immediately followed by the present impressive array of indications that America is actually going to intervene, has changed all that. Yesterday there seemed little doubt that Clemenceau would return to the Quai d'Orsay if he wishes, or send Tardieu there in his stead.

Despite the vote of confidence which Premier Poincare secured in the Chamber last night on top of Tardieu's speech in opposition, the Premier's position is greatly weakened since his trip to the London conference. Before he went there it was generally understood in political circles here that France and Great Britain had already reached a basis of understanding on the main lines of the reparations policy which the Allies were to follow.

Both Poincare and President Millerand at that time, it was understood, held the policy of France to be her renunciation of a large part of the German debt in return for institution of a general scheme of debt settlement in combination with reparations settlement.

Customs Receipts Seizure

Failing to put through this program, which was the French program, with the assistance of the London negotiations, the French government is consequently very definitely held against him here. The overwhelming proportions of last night's vote of confidence do not, in the circumstances, mitigate this fact at all.

With Clemenceau's demonstration of vigor in the United States coinciding with Poincare's evidence of weakness at London, the Tiger's henchman, Tardieu, is credited with a masterful handling of the political cards here at home. A general election is due here in France a year hence. Tardieu is understood to have told the members of the Chamber generally that, in view of this, the policy of indecision exhibited by Poincare is particularly unfortunate. The policy of firmness already exhibited by Clemenceau, he has pointed out, in striking contrast.

With the American tour of the Tiger to back him up Tardieu is credited with saying that Clemenceau is capable of carrying out a policy of force toward Germany if necessary and at the same time gaining both American and British support.

Former Clubhouse Burns
CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—The former clubhouse of the Evanston Country Club was virtually destroyed by fire early today with a loss estimated at \$15,000. It was unoccupied.

THE TRUTH
"—is also found in frank confession of error"

The Tribune will be glad to receive and publish corrections of inaccuracies in its columns.

In the Tribune yesterday it was said that the Rev. Mr. George Henry Lawson, who has been mentioned in connection with the answering of his reported prayer for a son, had left East Orange for parts unknown, leaving \$500 in unpaid bills. After a lawyer had announced the making of the engagement, Mr. Lawson informed The Tribune yesterday that he had made no secret of his destination, the Hotel McAlhenny. He declared that he left his property in East Orange and that he had unpaid bills when he came to New York.

Supreme Court Justice Ends Legal Fights by Arbitration

Compromise and arbitration have been adopted by Justice Isidor Wasservogel as means of overcoming long delays in the disposition of litigation in the Supreme Court. Two instances were reported yesterday wherein this peace-and-take method was employed. In each case the litigants accepted as final the decision of Justice Wasservogel, from which there will be no appeal, thus saving not only court costs and the expense of appeals but the time of the court as well. The two cases would have occupied approximately a month.

One case was that of Woodhouse and Bell against Paul Geril, Inc., the former a silk commission firm and the latter a silk manufacturer. The case was called for trial in the Supreme Court. One witness of the twelve who were to testify had been examined and the whole day had been taken up when Justice Wasservogel suggested that the matter be submitted to him in chambers, so that it could be expedited. The justice agreed to accept the figures submitted by the lawyers

Seeks Vindication in D. A. R. Election



Mrs. William Cumming Story, who will be candidate for president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution in effort to obtain "moral acquittal" of charges growing out of her connection with the affairs of the National Emergency Relief Society

Letters to Santa Show Faith He'll Brighten Drear Poverty

Children and Mothers of City's Ragged Spots Write Christmas Saint to Bring Warm Clothes and Simple Toys; "Clearing House" to Answer

Along the selvages of the city and down its rough seams, the river fronts and the extremities of up town and down town, the belief in Santa Claus runs high, although it does not take a child there long to perceive that Santa seldom visits where there is no money, but chooses homes where mothers wear fur coats and fathers dress for dinner.

Not only the child believes in Santa Claus, but his mother does, too. Her faith, however, is really a hope that will cling to any belief that can relieve the drabness of poverty; so, just before Christmas, she sits down to write a few words to Santa, praying that there may be such a person, after all.

Reaches "Santa's Clearing House"

Her letter, like thousands of others, finds its way to the Santa Claus Association, the clearing house for mail which bears the name of the Christmas saint.

"Dear Santa Claus," one mother's letter reads.

"I hope you won't forget me this Christmas, as I have four children and I have a great deal of hard luck. My husband is up in the country for his health and I have two going to school and two put in the nursery. I have no help only what I work for. I hope I will hear from you, the children have been crazy telling me about Santa Claus. Things are very dear and I hope the children will be made happy for their sake. Oldest is Jose, twelve years old, and May is ten years old and Willie is three years, and Cecilia is two years old. I hope and pray I will hear from you for the 'kiddies' sake."

Other notes, covered with a large, childish scrawl, are written by the little mothers of the family, the oldest daughter, usually, who, in the absence of the father, is her mother's political representative. Santa Claus, to come by her way on Christmas. Carmen Adams is such a one, and in the full importance of her thirteen years, the big girl of the family writes:

"I am asking you for some presents because I know that my parents cannot afford to buy them. In all my life I've always wanted a pair of ice skates. Also send my sister a doll. She goes crazy over them. Please also send me two balls for my two smaller brothers. Please send these things to me only if you can. In case you cannot send them, only try to send the balls and the doll. Don't worry about my skates. Your sincere friend."

From the Boy Santa Forgot

And from the boy who has watched Christmas slip by as giftless and joyless as any other of the 365 days in the year, but who cherishes the conviction deep down in his heart that this year he will not be overlooked, this letter was received:

"Dear Santa Claus:
"I am the little boy who wrote to you last Christmas and you forgot to come and see us. I have two sisters and one brother. My sisters are sixteen and ten and my brother is three years. Please, Santa Claus, don't forget me."
"THOMAS CARROLL"

Toys and candy, proverbial accompaniments of festivities, are not the only things which the very young want. The boy whose letter has been taken up in winter is practical enough to ask for

Hughes, Premier, Wins In Australian Election

Retains Seat in Parliament, but Assistant Minister Is Defeated

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The majority whereby Premier Hughes was re-elected to Parliament in the Federal elections to-day is placed at 5,000 in a Reuter dispatch from Melbourne. A Central News report from Sydney says that Assistant Minister Lamond was defeated.

Other ministers whose seats are considered insecure are Walter M. Green, Minister of Navy and for Defense; Alexander Poynton, Postmaster General, and Speaker Johnson. Most of the other Hughes' colleagues were defeated.

The dispatch gives the Nationalists approximately thirty-six seats, Labor twenty-five, the Country Party twelve and the Independent Nationalists two, but says that the outstanding results from doubtful constituencies may alter the position.

Mrs. W. C. Story Opens Contest To Head D. A. R.

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she obtained funds for the bazaar and divided them with Brown. In addition, there were two conspiracy charges, also connected with the relations of herself and her sons to the society.

Mrs. Story denied all these charges at the time, and demanded trial. Brown, the chief witness against her, died during the influenza epidemic, and the District Attorney withdrew the indictments. Hence the case never came to trial. Mrs. Story declared yesterday that Brown was a material witness in only the first case and that she wished the other cases to come to trial to clear her name with due process of law. She held sworn affidavits sufficient to clear her name completely, she said.

She professed herself ready for any investigation of the cases which might transpire in the course of the campaign.

Mrs. Story declared that many women all parts of the country had brought her to run for president general, and that when her own group, the Roosevelt Chapter, had endorsed her, she could not refuse.

She said her campaign would be waged on an anti-radical platform. "Practical service to our country is as necessary now as preparedness was before the war," she added, "and I believe our organization, which inherits the fighting blood of men who made this country, has a responsibility today to fight this modern menace to our country, this tendency to bolshevism, socialism and all other isms that spell destruction to our government."

"I have particular reason to know the extent of length to which this menace can operate," she added. "It has made me heartily and threatened with the loss of all that I deem most precious in the world, the priceless friendships which have come to me in my public and private life."

Miss Mary Elizabeth Fisk, regent of the Roosevelt Chapter, moved the adoption of the resolution endorsing Mrs. Story, and it was seconded by Mrs. Charles Dodd Ward and Mrs. Burton H. Davy.

Shoots Wife, Kills Himself

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Gibson Kouyounjian, of this city, shot his wife during an altercation in their home today, seriously wounding her, and then turned the revolver upon himself, dying instantly.

Ellis Island Inquiry Ordered As Result of British Protest

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Plans to modify the present system of handling immigrants at Ellis Island were announced to-day by Secretary Davis of the Labor Department after British complaints regarding conditions at the island again had been called to his attention by Sir Auckland Geddes, the British Ambassador.

Mr. Davis said he had ordered a thorough investigation, with a view to providing separate accommodations at the Ellis Island station for immigrants of different nationalities. He indicated that no detailed plans had yet been drawn up, however, and that he would

issue no order on the subject until the investigation had been completed.

During his visit to the Labor Department the British Ambassador is understood to have called particular attention to objections made by British subjects to the accommodations provided for those detained at Ellis Island pending a decision as to their admission to the United States.

At the Department of Labor it was said the British complaint was that subjects of that nation were detained for periods unnecessarily long and that sanitary and other conveniences were inadequate in the detention rooms. It was added that the British authorities alleged that the treatment was suffered chiefly by British subjects from the colonies.

Leblang Sees Central Office End Speculation

Cut-Rate Theater Ticket Agency Head Offers to Finance Managers' Plan; Certain It Will Be Success

Wants \$500,000 Capital

Declares Branches Would Be Established Throughout City and Suburbs

Joe Leblang, proprietor of New York's only cut-rate ticket agency, who has proposed the establishment of a consolidated agency for all theaters, with branches sprinkled over the metropolitan district, said yesterday that his plan would cost only \$500,000 to put into operation, that he would advance every cent of the money himself and that he could guarantee that it would prevent ticket speculation.

Leblang said he would be ready to reveal at the proper time just how his plan would be actually speculative proof. He discussed in detail his central agency plan, now in the hands of a committee of the Producing Managers' Association, as he sat in his small office squandered in behind the rear wall of his underground agency. The agency floor was jammed at the time with a seething mass of people, elbowing and pushing their way toward the long counter behind which were listed the Saturday matinee attractions available at cut rates.

"Hear that mob out there?" said Mr. Leblang. "Well, from that you get an idea what a central agency would be like. This agency has been a success because it has been a public service affair; the big central agency would succeed for the same reason. There would be no chance of failure, as far as I can see, and if there is I would be willing to take it."

"I am proud that the Producing Managers' Association voted its approval of my plan, but, of course, I don't assume that I would be in charge of the agency in event the association decides to go through with it. I'm only saying what can actually be done with the idea. I am aware of the criticism that has been advanced on the theory that the central agency would increase speculation in theater tickets. I can say quite positively that it would not aid speculators, but would absolutely eliminate them from New York's theatrical industry, and in a way that will be exceedingly simple. The central agency plan is plausible, practicable, and is one that would give public service. The public could not fail to support it."

Mr. Leblang pointed out that Broadway rarely has at one time more than five or six plays which can be called sensational successes. It is on the sale of tickets to plays of this kind that the speculator thrives. For seats to these attractions he can get his own price. And the seats that he usually sells at fancy prices are in the first twelve rows. In a way he declined to divulge how Mr. Leblang would put such seats behind the reach of the speculator. Those with whom he has discussed this feature of the plan agreed that it appeared to be simple and effective.

Mr. Leblang said that in the event of immediate action by the Producing Managers' Association the consolidated agency could be put into operation in a month, but that it is his opinion it should be held over until next season, so as to allow agencies now operating in the theater district and charging the 50-cent-above-the-box-office-premiums to close their businesses and dispose of their leases.

"It would be a thing that would require lots of co-operation," continued Mr. Leblang, "and many of those in the agency business could be of great assistance to the plan because of their experience and understanding of the theatrical business. The central agency idea could give employment to one thousand persons or more, depending upon the number of branch offices created. There would have to be no limit to the branches. They could be established over the entire city—in hotels, railroad stations and elsewhere. Each village and town in New York's suburban area could have its own branch agency, and every branch, irrespective of its size, would have immediate access to every seat available in every New York theater at the moment. For such service there would be a charge of 10 cents above the box-office price, and there would not even be this charge when a purchaser carried a card that would cost \$1 and would be good for a year.

"I am convinced that money could be made at a 10-cent-above-the-box-office rate. Anyway, I'm more than willing

to take the chance. The plan would bring the Broadway box office to the computer; it would stimulate theater-going and prove helpful all around. As I see it, the plan could be worked out so that all tickets when printed would be delivered to the central agency, which would be located at Times Square. I know a site that is now available. No tickets would be delivered to box offices until just before the matinee and evening performances. All tickets sold at the branch offices would be duplicated, with the stub left blank. A branch agency salesman, when called upon for a ticket, would communicate by telephone with the central office, learn just what to be had and then fill in the stub accordingly. Each branch would become a service station where the first to come would be the first to be served."

Mr. Leblang said that the establishment of a central agency, with its innumerable branches, would not necessarily mean the elimination of his own cut-rate business. He said that there always will be plays to which seats cannot be sold, unless they are offered at half price. "The cut rate's purpose," he said, "is to give something for nothing, and as I see it there will always be a demand for a cut-rate agency of some kind."

U. S. Protests Turks' Plan to Oust Patriarch

(Continued from page one)

the patriarchate, which up to the present has been, in the Turkish view, "an institution of a political, rather than a religious, character," should be transferred from Turkey, because its attitude and policies in the past would prevent it from adapting itself to the new order of things. The suppression of all political privileges of the patriarchate and the institutions surrounding it, the Turks contend, would remove entirely the reason for its existence.

Discontinuance of the temporal privileges of the clergy and the transfer of the patriarchate beyond the Turkish frontier, it is declared, is a necessary and inevitable for Turkey as it is salutary for the interested non-Muslim communities.

The discussion of this subject will be continued next week.

Turkish Minority in Mosul

Lord Curzon's memorandum, delivered last night to the Turkish delegation, declining on behalf of Great Britain to consider the Turkish claims to the vilayet of Mosul, bases refusal chiefly on the ground that there are only 55,000 Kurds in that district, as against 450,000 Kurds, 85,000 Arabs, 22,000 Christians and 16,000 Jews, virtually all of whom, the British declare, wish to have the vilayet continued under the Arab government of Iraq.

The Turks contend that the Kurds are closely related to them, but this is denied by the British, who assert the Kurds are wholly unrelated to the Turks, being of different race and language, and much more like the Persians.

See Drift, Toward Crisis

PARIS, Dec. 16 (By The Associated Press).—Reports received from Lausanne since the hurried departure from Paris of Ferid Bey in answer to a call from Ismet Pasha, indicate the approach of a new crisis in the negotiations at the Near East peace conference. The crisis, it is said, cannot be defined as hinging upon any special point, but is seen as the ultimate result of the present general drift of the conference unless this movement is checked.

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